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J. Bernard Minster is a professor of Geophysics at the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics (IGPP) of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego. A civil engineer from the Ecole des Mines de Paris, and as a petroleum engineer from the Institut Français du Pétrole (1969), he obtained a Ph.D. (1974) in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology and a doctorate in Physical Sciences from the Université de Paris VII (1974). Dr. Minster's research interests are centered on seismo-tectonics, large scale numerical modeling of earthquakes, and the use of space-based active remote sensing techniques to study the Earth. He is also interested in global data exchange problems. Dr. Minster has chaired various National Research Council committees. He chaired the NRC study on *Scientific Accomplishments of Earth Observations from Space*, and currently chairs the NRC study on *Precise Geodetic infrastructure*. He serves as chair of the *World Data system (WDC) Scientifc Committee* of the *International Council of Science* (ICSU). He currently serves on the Earth Science subcommittee of the *NASA Advisory Committee*.

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